



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535-0001

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Wenstrup:

This responds to your letters, dated April 15, 2021, and May 11, 2021, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), regarding the investigation into the Congressional baseball practice shooting at Simpson Field in Alexandria, Virginia, on June 14, 2017.

The FBI appreciates that, as a victim of the tragic shooting at Simpson Field, you understandably want to learn more about how the FBI investigated the attack and the conclusions drawn at the time. The FBI's understanding of domestic violent extremism continues to evolve, just as the domestic terrorism threat has evolved. Many of the domestic violent extremists who have committed attacks in the United States, much like the Simpson Field shooter, appear to have been motivated and inspired by a mix of ideological, sociopolitical, and personal grievances against their targets. The FBI is seeing more and more that the combination of violent extremist ideologies, individualized grievances toward a particular target, and personal factors all contribute to the mobilization to violence process. In short, we know that the motivations behind acts of domestic terrorism are complex and nuanced, and often very personalized to the perpetrator.

In this case, the FBI considers the Simpson Field shooting an act of domestic terrorism, under the umbrella of domestic violent extremism. As FBI National Security Branch Executive Assistant Director Jill S. Sanborn stated during recent Congressional testimony, were the same tragic events at Simpson Field to occur today, the FBI would open a domestic terrorism investigation into the perpetrator. This assessment of the attack is also explicitly included as an FBI-designated significant domestic terrorism incident in the joint FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and National Counterterrorism Center report, titled "Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Data on Domestic Terrorism," which was submitted to Congress today.

The FBI commends your heroism in rendering life-saving aid to Representative Scalise after he was shot and severely injured during the Congressional baseball practice. Thank you for supporting the FBI, our mission, and our people.

Sincerely,

Jill C. Tyson
Assistant Director
Office of Congressional Affairs